leopard. The population estimation figures of lion, leopard and tiger over the last ten years as received from States are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) The initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of wild animals including tiger are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 1259 Pt.(c)].

(d) Details of individual cases relating to poaching of wild animals are not collated at the Government of India level. However, mortality (natural/poaching/ accident) figures pertaining to tiger and leopard as received from tiger range States, apart from lion, are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Population estimation figures of major wild animals

Sl. No.	Tiger		Leopard		Asiatic Lion	
	1997	2001-02	1997	2001-02	1995	2005
1.	3508	3642	7893	8203	304	359 ± 10

Statement-II

Mortality figures pertaining to tiger, leopard and lion

Sl. No.	Tiger			Leopard			Lion		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	17	14	08	04	17	06	35	35	Not reported

Killing of lions in Gir forest

1275. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lions in Gir forest (Gujarat) as on 30th June, 2007;

(b) the number of lions so killed during the last one year, month-wise;

(c) whether the poachers are working on the pattern of Naxalite activities and the forest department is unable to protect the lions and other wild-life animals; and

(d) if so, whether due to this effect, Gir forest is on the line of Sariska forest where there are no lions/tigers today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the last population estimation carried out during April 2005, the total number of Asiatic lions in Gir and surrounding areas is estimated to be about 359±10.

(b) As per the report received from the State Government of Gujarat, the number of lions killed during the last one year (month wise), till July 31st, 2007 is as below:

Sl. No.	Month	Lions killed
1	August - 06	1
2	January - 07	1
3	March - 07	6
4	April - 07	2

(c) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Chanting of Vedic Mantras in American Senate

†1276. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether American Senate commenced the proceedings with chanting of Vedic Mantras;

(b) whether it was met with any opposition;

(c) the information provided by Embassy thereon alongwith the reasons given for the opposition; and

(d) in what way the concepts contained in these mantras relates to world peace?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government of India have seen reports that on July 12, 2007, the session of the US Senate was opened with the chanting of Vedic mantras. This was at the Initiative of the Senate majority leader, Harry Reid, who represents Nevada in the Senate. This event produced a reaction from three protestors in the public galleries, who were evicted by security personnel.

(d) Concepts contained in these mantras promote universal peace.

Nuclear agreement between Russia and Myanmar

†1277. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Myanmar has signed a nuclear agreement with Russia;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.